BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AC-2009-22

ERNEST EUNSUK DOW 3435 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #460 Los Angeles, CA 90010

Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 37413

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the California Board of Accountancy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on June 20, 2010.

It is so ORDERED

FOR THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF

ACCOUNTANCY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Automay General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General NANCY A. KASER Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 192083 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-5794 Fassimile: (213) 897-5794 Fassimile: (213) 897-5794 Fassimile: (213) 897-5804 Autorneys for Complainant In the Matter of the Accusation Against: ERNEST EUNSUK DOW 3635 Wilshire Blvd, Suite #460 Los Angeles, CA 90010 Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 37413 Respondent. In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public interest and the responsibility of the California Board of Accountancy of the Department of Disciplinary Order which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the Accusation. PARTIES 1. Patti Bowers (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the California Board of Accountancy. She brought this action solely in her official cepacity and is represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Nancy A. Kaiser, Deputy Attorney General.					
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28 Deputy Attorney General.	26				
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	28	28 Deputy Attorney General.			
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STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (AC-2009-22)			STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (AC-2009-22)	ļ	

- 2. Respondent Ernest Eunsuk Dow (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Stephanie Perkins, whose address is 7509 Madison Avenue, Suite 112, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.
- 3. On or about May 7, 1983, the California Board of Accountancy issued Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 37413 to Ernest Eunsuk Dow (Respondent). The Certified Public Accountant Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. AC-2009-22 and will expire on June 30, 2011, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. AC-2009-22 was filed before the California Board of Accountancy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on September 28, 2009. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. AC-2009-22 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. AC-2009-22. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

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7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. AC-2009-22.
- 9. Respondent agrees that his Certified Public Accountant Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the California Board of Accountancy (Board)'s imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the California Board of Accountancy. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the California Board of Accountancy may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

OTHER

- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary

Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

13. In consideration of the feregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 37413 issued to Respondent Ernest Eunsuk Dow (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

- Obey All Laws. Respondent shall obey all federal, California, other states' and local laws, including those rules relating to the practice of public accountancy in California.
- 2. Submit Written Reports. Respondent shall submit, within ten (10) days of completion of the quarter, written reports to the Board on a form obtained from the Board. The Respondent shall submit, under penalty of perjury, such other written reports, declarations, and verification of actions as are required. These declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions of probation. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.
- 3. Personal Appearances. Respondent shall, during the period of probation, appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives, provided such notification is accomplished in a timely manner.
- 4. Comply With Probation. Respondent shall fully comply with the terms and conditions of the probation imposed by the Board and shall cooperate fully with representatives of the Board of Accountancy in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with probation terms and conditions.
- 5. Practice Investigation. Respondent shall be subject to, and shall permit, practice investigation of the Respondent's professional practice. Such a practice investigation shall be

conducted by representatives of the Board, provided notification of such review is accomplished in a timely manner.

- Comply With Citations. Respondent shall comply with all final orders resulting from citations issued by the Board of Accountancy.
- 7. Tolling of Probation for Out-of-State Residence/Practice. In the event Respondent should leave California to reside or practice outside this state, Respondent must notify the Board in writing of the dates of departure and return. Periods of non-California residency or practice outside the state shall not apply to reduction of the probationary period, or of any suspension. No obligation imposed herein, including requirements to file written reports, reimburse the Board costs, or make restitution to consumers, shall be suspended or otherwise affected by such periods of out-of-state residency or practice except at the written direction of the Board.
- 8. Violation of Probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or a petition to revoke probation is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 9. Completion of Probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license will be fully restored.
- percent or better a Board approved ethics examination within six (6) months of the date the Board's decision is final. If Respondent fails to pass said examination within the time period provided or within two attempts, Respondent shall so notify the Board and shall cease practice until Respondent takes and successfully passes said exam, has submitted proof of same to the Board, and has been notified by the Board that he may resume practice.
- 11. Continuing Education Courses. Respondent shall complete and provide proper documentation of twenty-four (24) hours of professional education courses within the first year of probation. This shall be in addition to continuing education requirements for re-licensing.

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the California Board of Accountancy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated: 4/1/2010

Respectfully Submitted,

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Attorney General of California
GREGORY J. SALUTE
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

NANCY A. KAISER Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. AC-2009-22.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE Supervising Deputy Attorney General NANCY A. KAISER Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 192083 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-5794 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 Attorneys for Complainant BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOPERATMENT OF CONSUMI	ER AFFAIRS	
11	STATE OF CALIFOR	NIA	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against	Case No. AC-2009-22	
13	ERNEST EUNSUK DOW 3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 460	ACCUSATION	
14 15	Los Angeles, CA 90010 Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 37413	ACCUBATION	
16	and		
17	ERNEST E. DOW & CO., AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION		
18	3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 460	·	
19	Certified Public Accountancy Corporation Certificate No. COR 6212		
20	Respondents.		
21]	
22	Complainant alleges:		
23	<u>PARTIES</u>		
24	1. Patti Bowers (Complainant) brings this Accus		
25	the Executive Officer of the California Board of Accountancy, Department of Consumer Affairs		
26	2. On or about May 7, 1983, the California Board of Accountancy (Board) issued		
27	Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. CPA 37413 to Ernest Eunsuk Dow (Respondent		
28	Dow). The Certified Public Accountant Certificate will ex	xpire on June 30, 2011, unless renewed	
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7. Section 5050, subdivision (a), states:

"Except as provided in subdivision (b) and (c) of this section, in subdivision (a) of Section 5054, and in Section 5096.12, no person shall engage in the practice of public accountancy in this state unless the person is the holder of a valid permit to practice public accountancy issued by the board or a holder of a practice privilege pursuant to Article 5.1 (commencing with Section 5096.)."

8. Section 5051 states:

"Except as provided in Sections 5052 and 5053, a person shall be deemed to be engaged in the practice of public accountancy within the meaning and intent of this chapter if he or she does any of the following:

- "(a) Holds himself or herself out to the public in any manner as one skilled in the knowledge, science, and practice of accounting, and as qualified and ready to render professional service therein as a public accountant for compensation.
 - "(b) Maintains an office for the transaction of business as a public accountant.
- "(c) Offers to prospective clients to perform for compensation, or who does perform on behalf of clients for compensation, professional services that involve or require an audit, examination, verification, investigation, certification, presentation, or review of financial transactions and accounting records.
- "(d) Prepares or certifies for clients reports on audits or examinations of books or records of account, balance sheets, and other financial, accounting and related schedules, exhibits, statements, or reports that are to be used for publication, for the purpose of obtaining credit, for filing with a court of law or with any governmental agency, or for any other purpose.
- "(e) In general or as an incident to that work, renders professional services to clients for compensation in any or all matters relating to accounting procedure and to the recording, presentation, or certification of financial information or data.
- "(f) Keeps books, makes trial balances, or prepares statements, makes audits, or prepares reports, all as a part of bookkeeping operations for clients.
 - "(g) Prepares or signs, as the tax preparer, tax returns for clients.

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- "(h) Prepares personal financial or investment plans or provides to clients products or services of others in implementation of personal financial or investment plans.
 - "(i) Provides management consulting services to clients.

"The activities set forth in subdivisions (f) to (i), inclusive, are "public accountancy" only when performed by a certified public accountant or public accountant, as defined in this chapter.

"A person is not engaged in the practice of public accountancy if the only services he or she engages in are those defined by subdivisions (f) to (i), inclusive, and he or she does not hold himself or herself out, solicit, or advertise for clients using the certified public accountant or public accountant designation. A person is not holding himself or herself out, soliciting, or advertising for clients within the meaning of this section solely by reason of displaying a CPA or PA certificate in his or her office or identifying himself or herself as a CPA or PA on other than signs, advertisements, letterhead, business cards, publications directed to clients or potential clients, or financial or tax documents of a client."

- 9. Section 5063, states, in the pertinent part:
- "(b) A licensee shall report to the board in writing the occurrence of any of the following events occurring on or after January 1, 2003, within 30 days of the date the licensee has knowledge of the events:

. . . .

- "(3) Any notice of the opening or initiation of a formal investigation of the licensee by the Securities and Exchange Commission or its designee."
- 10. Section 5060 subdivision (b), states that "[n]o person or firm may practice public accountancy under any name other than the name under which the person or firm holds a valid permit to practice issued by the board."
 - 11. Section 5100 states, in pertinent part:

"After notice and hearing the board may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any permit or certificate granted under Article 4 (commencing with Section 5070) and Article 5 (commencing with Section 5080), or may censure the holder of that permit or certificate for unprofessional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, one or any combination of the following causes:

"(g) Willful violation of this chapter or any rule or regulation promulgated by the board under the authority granted under this chapter.

. . . .

"(1) The imposition of any discipline, penalty, or sanction on a registered public accounting firm or any associated person of such firm, or both, or on any other holder of a permit, certificate, license, or other authority to practice in this state, by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board or the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, or their designees under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 or other federal legislation. . . ."

12. Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 section 102, subdivision (a), prohibits any person that is not a registered public accounting firm with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) from preparing or issuing or participating in the preparation or issuance of any audit report with respect to any public company after October 22, 2003. (Pub.L. No. 107-204 July 30, 2002, 116 Stat.745, codified in 15 U.S.C. §§ 7201 et seq.).

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 13. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 87, states, in pertinent part:
- "(a) 80 Hours.

"As a condition of active status license renewal, a licensee shall complete at least 80 hours of qualifying continuing education as described in Section 88 in the two-year period immediately preceding license expiration, and meet the reporting requirements specified in subsection (a) of Section 89. A licensee engaged in the practice of public accountancy as defined in Section 5051 of the Business and Professions Code is required to hold a license in active status. No carryover of continuing education is permitted from one two-year license renewal period to another.

- "(c) Accounting and Auditing Continuing Education Requirement.
- "A licensee who engages in planning, directing, performing substantial portions of the work, or reporting on an audit, review, compilation, or attestation service, shall complete 24 hours of the 80 hours of continuing education required pursuant to subsection (a) in the course subject

matter specified in this subsection. Course subject matter must pertain to financial statement preparation and/or reporting (whether such statements are prepared on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles or other comprehensive bases of accounting), auditing, reviews, compilations, industry accounting, attestation services, or assurance services. This continuing education shall be completed in the same two-year license renewal period as the report is issued. If no report is issued because the financial statements are not intended for use by third parties, the continuing education shall be completed in the same two-year license renewal period as the financial statements are submitted to the client.

"(d) A licensee who must complete continuing education pursuant to subsections (b) and/or (c) of this section shall also complete an additional eight hours of continuing education specifically related to the detection and/or reporting of fraud in financial statements. This continuing education shall be part of the 80 hours of continuing education required by subsection (a), but shall not be part of the continuing education required by subsections (b) or (c). This requirement applies to licensees who renew their licensee on or after July 1, 2005.

. . . .

"(g) Failure to Comply.

"A licensee's willful failure to comply with the requirements of this section shall constitute cause for disciplinary action pursuant to Section 5100(g) of the Accountancy Act."

14. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 94, states:

"Failure to comply with these continuing education rules by a licensee engaged in public practice, as defined in Business and Professions Code Section 5051, constitutes cause for disciplinary action under Section 5100."

COST RECOVERY

15. Section 5107, subdivision (a), states:

"The executive officer of the board may request the administrative law judge, as part of the proposed decision in a disciplinary proceeding, to direct any holder of a permit or certificate found to have committed a violation or violations of this chapter to pay to the board all reasonable

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costs of investigation and prosecution of the case, including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees.

The board shall not recover costs incurred at the administrative hearing."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(SEC Discipline Imposed Against Licensee)

- 16. Respondent Dow is subject to disciplinary action under section 5100, subdivision (l), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about July 29, 2008, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) imposed discipline, penalty, or sanction on Respondent Dow's practice of accounting for violating the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 in the proceeding entitled *In the Matter of Choi Dow Ian Hong & Lee Accountancy Corporation, et al*, SEC Accounting and Auditing Enforcement Release No. 2849, Administrative Proceeding File No. 3-12790. The SEC ordered Respondent Dow's practice of accounting before the SEC censured. The circumstances underlying the action are as follows:
- a. On or about December 2, 2004, Respondent Dow, as engagement partner, prepared and issued an audit report for VALCAPX Acquisition Corporation, a public company, for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2002, 2003, and 2004 (Audit Report). Prior to or during his engagement of services and issuing of the Audit Report for VALCAPX, the firm that Respondent Dow was working for at the time he performed the audit, Choi, Dow, Ian, Hong & Lee, CPA's, a Professional Corporation, Certified Public Accountancy Corporation Certificate No. COR 4132 ["the firm"], was not registered with the Public Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), a violation of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. As a result, the firm and Respondent Dow did not possess the requisite qualifications to represent others.
- b. On or about December 9, 2004, VALCAPX filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) its Form 10-KSB, which included the Audit Report prepared by Respondent Dow as engagement partner.
- c. On or about September 13, 2007, in Administrative Proceeding File No. 3-12790, the SEC issued an Order Instituting Administrative Proceedings Pursuant to Section 4C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, and

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Notice of Hearing against Respondent Dow for issuing the VALCAPX Audit Report without possessing the requisite qualification to represent others.

d. On or about July 29, 2008, in SEC Accounting and Auditing Enforcement Release No. 2849, Administrative Proceeding File No. 3-12790, the SEC issued an Order Making Findings and Imposing Remedial Sanctions Pursuant to Section 4C of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 102(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice which censured Respondent Dow's privilege of appearing or practicing before the SEC as an accountant.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Report SEC Initiating Action)

17. Respondent Dow is subject to disciplinary action under sections 5100, subdivision (g), and 5063, subdivision (b)(3), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent Dow failed to report to the Board the occurrence of the SEC instituting administrative proceedings against him on or about September 13, 2007, under Administrative Proceeding File No. 3-12790. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraph 15, subdivisions (a)-(d), inclusive, as though set forth fully.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Issuing an Audit Report Without a Valid Permit)

18. Respondent Dow is subject to disciplinary action under sections 5100, subdivision (g) and 5050, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, in that on or about December 2, 2004, VALCAPX's Audit Report issuing date, Respondent Dow's permit to practice as a Certified Public Accountant was in delinquent status. It was in a delinquent status from July 1, 2003 to June 19, 2005. Complainant refers to and by this reference incorporates the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 2 and 15, subdivisions (a)-(d), inclusive, as though set forth fully.

FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Continuing Education Requirements)

19. Respondent Dow is subject to disciplinary action under section 5100, subdivision (g), and California Code of Regulations, title 16, sections 87, subdivisions (c) and (d), and 94, in that on or about November 18, 2007, Respondent Dow disclosed on his two (2) year renewal form for

the period ended June 30, 2007, his completion of eight (8) hours of Accounting and Auditing continuing education, while twenty-four (24) hours were required, and completion of two (2) hours of Fraud continuing education while eight (8) hours were required. Respondent Dow failed to complete sixteen (16) hours of Accounting and Auditing continuing education, and six (6) hours of Fraud continuing education during his renewal period.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Practice Under Unregistered Firm Name)

20. Respondents are subject to disciplinary action under sections 5100, subdivision (g), and 5060, subdivision (b), in that between on or about January 3, 2008, and December 18, 2008, Respondents practiced public accountancy under the unregistered corporate name of Ernest E. Dow & Co., an Accountancy Corporation. On or about January 3, 2008, Ernest E. Dow & Co., an Accountancy Corporation, filed Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State. On or about December 18, 2008, Respondent Dow informed the Board that under the name Ernest E. Dow & Co., an Accountancy Corporation, he completed approximately: 215 tax returns; ten (10) compilation reports, without notes; and one (1) review report.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the California Board of Accountancy issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending or otherwise imposing discipline upon Certified Public Accountant No. CPA 37413, issued to Ernest Eunsuk Dow;
- 2. Revoking or suspending or otherwise imposing discipline upon Certified Public Accountancy Corporation Certificate No. COR 6212, issued to Ernest E. Dow & Co., an Accountancy Corporation;
- 3. Ordering Ernest Eunsuk Dow and Ernest E. Dow & Co., an Accountancy Corporation to pay the California Board of Accountancy the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 5107; and,

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1	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
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3 1	DATED: SEPLEMBU 2/2009 PATTI BOWERS
4	PATTI BOWERS Executive Officer California Board of Accountancy
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6	Complainant
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